

# PRECANCELS CANADA

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF THE BNAPS PRECANCEL STUDY GROUP

ISSUE No. 4 - SUMMER 2016

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

### AUCTION OF MAJOR COLLECTION

Since the start of the Study Group last fall, the SG emphasis has been on the diversity of precancels and the opportunity to explore little known aspects. While it is challenging to work in areas that have not been explored for some time, we need to remember that the main set of precancels holds much opportunity to seek out and acquire good copies of both inexpensive and expensive items. Certainly, it is very challenging to find and buy copies to fill in our collection.

Periodically, one of our advanced collectors places his collection on the market, providing us with opportunities to augment our collections with hard-to-find items. Unfortunately, this often only occurs when an advanced collector passes away. One such occasion is now happening.

As a long time collector, **Duncan MacDonald** was an advanced specialist in Pre-Cancels. He built an extensive collection, including many of the more difficult items. Duncan was also deeply involved in the initial Study Group, serving as Secretary-Treasurer and Webmaster. Having passed away a short time ago, Duncan's collection is now being offered at auction by another long time specialist in precancels, **David Marasco**.

The auction will take place in 4 sections, each of which covers the full range of material. The first auction is scheduled for June 2016. Live bidding will be available and the items will be shown on David's website. You

can contact David at [oceanp@telus.net](mailto:oceanp@telus.net) and register for the auction.

Most interesting is that the auction lists each item separately, regardless of the CV. This way you will be able to bid for individual items which are valued as low as \$20. So often the low values in an auction are grouped together in lots, making it difficult to acquire individual values which are still hard to find. Considering how rare it is for bourse dealers to have a good selection of precancels, this auction is a welcome opportunity for collectors.

I highly recommend that you spend the time to browse through the initial listings of each of the four auctions. I have done so with the first two listings and was able to find about 70 items that I need, including a few which catalogue under \$50. I look forward to studying the other listings.

A word of caution: David will be adding items to the listings and they will be inserted in the appropriate place in the listing. This will change the lot numbers already listed.

On a separate note: the BNAPS Exchange Circuit has received some 25 sheets of precancels which have been posted to the BNAPS website. Again, the material ranges in value from the most common to the relatively hard-to-find. You can view these on the BNAPS Website and BNAPS members can order them on approval from me.

Andy Ellwood  
Chairman

## THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN?

YOU ALMOST DIDN'T HAVE ONE THIS TIME!

**APOLOGIES, COMPLAINTS, ET AL**

**MY APOLOGY**

I guess I had better start with an apology. At the time that I am preparing this issue, I am already slightly more than a month late. My excuse? Summer.

As is the case every summer for the last 35 years, my allergies kick in and make me miserable ... even more miserable than I usually am. The allergies started in my nose and ended up in an eye infection that has greatly limited my time on my computer. As I think about my annual attack, it is not unlikely that in the month of July, I spent less time on the computer in total than I do in a normal day. Anyhow, I am much better and cannot wait for the first snow.

So much for my apology. Having done so and humbly admitted my weaknesses, I feel that it is only fair to spend equal time with complaints.

**COMPLAINT #1**

Those of you who are observant probably noticed a third line in the box at the bottom of page 1 of this issue. It states: "We almost didn't have one this time!" Trust me when I say that this statement was not meant as a joke or a warning. It is true. If it wasn't for the fact that several people jumped in and provided material, the next issue would be at the end of September and would be number 4 and 5.

I sent an email out to the entire membership and all the advertisers asking for articles or did they want me to rerun their ads? A couple members helped with articles, but none of the advertisers responded at all. Strange ... especially since all the ads have been free.

I know that summertime is not conducive to spending time at a desk hammering out articles. The summer issue has been a problem with every publication in which I have been involved.

Maybe we should be take the opposite approach to stocking up provisions for winter and start stocking up articles for summer. In fact, I am going to make a unilateral decision (and then duck): beginning with the next issue, content will be limited to no more than eight pages. Any excess articles I receive (if there are any) will be saved for a future issue.

**COMPLAINT #2**

In issue 2, I happily announced that Tim Arthur had volunteered to coordinate the "Precancel Puzzles" column and asked that you send your puzzles directly to him. Up to this time, I know of only one person who attempted to send Tim an item for inclusion.

We have a definite shortage of members volunteering. Kind of sad that when one does volunteer he gets ignored. It is said that repetition builds awareness. Here's Tim's email address again: [myface3@aol.com](mailto:myface3@aol.com).

**COMPLAINT #3**

It seems that Andy gets potential articles from members, and so does Gary Steele. I hardly ever get any. What's wrong with this picture? Andy and Gary have enough to do with their own positions in the study group.

**ET AL**

This is not a complaint as much as a cry for help. Please handle submission of materials for this newsletter in the following manner:

- 1 We prefer that text files be submitted as .doc or .docx files. Most other text formats add more work converting the material.
2. Please do not embed images in your text. Sometimes, they can be extracted, but more often than not, troubles arise and images cannot be used.
3. Please try to submit images as jpegs at 300 dpi or greater. If you cannot provide this format, email me and let me know what you can provide. I can convert images from most formats, but not all.
4. When sending images of both the front and back of an item, please submit them in the same size and the same resolution.

Thanks for your help.

Larry Goldberg  
Editor

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**B.N.A.P.S. ANNUAL CONVENTION  
FREDERICTON NB  
30 SEP - 2 OCT 2016**

The annual BNAPS conventions and bourse are held in different cities in September each year. This year the Fredericton District Stamp Club is hosting the Convention and are welcoming all philatelists. In addition to the excellent exhibits and dealers offerings, there will be several seminars, a tour of Fredericton and a gala banquet. Details are available on the BNAPS Website.

**COMING EVENTS**

Our thanks to the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) for furnishing this information to us.

**August 19-21, 2016 – Waterloo, Ontario**

**The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) Annual Convention, Royal 2016 Royale (N)**

Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex, 101 Father David Bauer Drive, Waterloo

Show Hours: Friday 10 AM - 6 PM; Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM; Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM

Information: [royal2016royale@gmail.com](mailto:royal2016royale@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.kwstampclub.org/royal-2016-royale-national-stamp-exhibition/>

**September 16-18, 2016 - Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
Nova Scotia Stamp Club NOVAPEX 2016 (N)**

Dartmouth Sportsplex, 110 Wyse Road, Dartmouth  
Show Hours: Friday 2 PM - 8 PM; Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 3 PM

Information: [webnews@nsstampclub.ca](mailto:webnews@nsstampclub.ca)

Website: <http://www.nsstampclub.ca/novapex16.htm>

**September 30 - October 2, 2016 - Fredericton, New Brunswick**

**British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) Annual Convention, BNAPEX 2016 (N)**

Fredericton Inn, 1315, rue Regent Street, Fredericton  
Show Hours: Friday 9:45 AM - 6 PM; Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM; Sunday 10 AM - 3 PM

Information: (Ron Smith, Chairman) [bnapexchairman@bnaps.org](mailto:bnapexchairman@bnaps.org)

Website: <http://www.bnaps.org/bnapex2016/>

**October 1, 2016 - Sarnia, Ontario  
Sarnia Stamp Club LAMPEX (R)**

Sarnia Collegiate Institute and Technical School, 275 Wellington Street, Sarnia

Show Hours: Saturday 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Information: [sarniastampclub@cogeco.ca](mailto:sarniastampclub@cogeco.ca)

Website: <http://home.cogeco.ca/~sarniastampclub/newLAMPEXshowlocation.htm>

**October 15, 2016 - Barrie, Ontario  
Barrie Stamp Club 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Stamp Show and Bourse (R)**

Army, Navy and Air Force Association Branch 365, 7 George Street, Barrie

Show Hours: Saturday 10 AM - 3 PM

Information: (Bruce Walter) [b.walter@rogers.com](mailto:b.walter@rogers.com)

Website: <http://barriedistrictstampclub.ca/stamp-show-bourse/>

**October 15-16, 2016 - London, Ontario  
CANPEX 2016 National Philatelic Exhibition (N)**

The Hellenic Community Centre, 133 Southdale Road West, London

Show Hours: Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM; Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM

Information: (John Sheffield) [info@canpex.ca](mailto:info@canpex.ca)

Website: <http://www.canpex.ca/>

**January 21, 2017 - St. Catharines, Ontario**

**St. Catharines Stamp Club 68<sup>th</sup> Annual CATHEX (R)  
Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara Street,  
St. Catharines**

Show Hours: Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM

Information: (David Hillier) [fancycancelhillier@gmail.com](mailto:fancycancelhillier@gmail.com)

Website: <http://stcatharinesstampclub.ca>

**SPECIAL OFFER  
TO STUDY GROUP MEMBERS**

The Canada Precancel Handbook which was produced in 1988 by Messrs Walburn, Kraemer, Reiche & Stott is the best book on Canadian Precancels which is readily available. With nearly 200 pages, it has a wealth of diverse and in-depth knowledge about the subject.

Certainly a “must have” for the serious Precancel collector. Normally sold by BNAPS through Unitrade at \$16.95, the SG has a few copies available at \$11.00 Cdn to Canada and \$9.00 US to US addresses, including shipping.

Contact Andy Ellwood at:

**[andy\\_ellwood@rogers.com](mailto:andy_ellwood@rogers.com)**



## PRECANCEL OR PRECANCELLED?

Larry Goldberg

It appears to me that there is an ongoing bit of confusion as to when a postal marking is a precancel or the item was just precancelled. Two examples appear in articles received for this issue, one each from George Dresser and Tom Meyerhof.

I skimmed some literature thinking I might find someone else's view on the subject (being a somewhat cowardly person, I avoid sticking my neck out). Unfortunately, I found nothing readily available.

So here's my take on the subject. At a postmaster's discretion, any sort of stamp can be precancelled using any sort of postal marking. (See the two examples that follow.) A precancel is a postal marking of a certain type, new defunct. All precancel postal markings are precancelled, but not all precancelled stamps are precancels.

Thank you for allowing me to add to the confusion.

## PRECANCELLED 1¢ CANADA J1 POSTAGE DUE

George P. Dresser

*(Editor's Note: The stamps shown here are from George's collection. The comments are from an opinion solicited by George from Kevin O'Reilly, a well-known specialist in the postal history of the Northwest Territories.)*

From Kevin O'Reilly:

*"Certainly looks to me as though it is the first Fort Smith (NWT) roller cancel. The date appears to be*

*February 8, 1928 or 1929. The device was proofed on March 10, 1926 so either date would work, but I suspect it is probably 1929 when the flights down the Mackenzie Valley had begun. These stamps probably paid postage due on parcel or bulk incoming mail, I just got an entire sheet of these stamps cancelled January 28, 1929 on eBay."*



1¢ Canada postage due (J1) precancelled with Fort Smith roller cancel

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## PRECANCELLED 5¢ BEAVER ON COVER

Tom Meyerhof

According to Boggs the first unofficial precancels were created in 1888 in Ottawa by the Post Office using their current obliterator to cancel sheets of 1¢, 2¢, 3¢ and 5¢ small queen stamps, followed later that year by the St John Post Office using their killer in a similar fashion. In addition starting in 1889 (1880 according to both Robson Lowe and Lacelle), Montreal used its old 21 roller cancel for a similar purpose, while Toronto is thought to have precancelled stamps by ruling lines of ink across complete sheets.

This, however was not the first time an enterprising postmaster used this technique to reduce the subsequent labour at their post office. Shown below is a cover mailed in 1866 bearing a 5¢ Beaver stamp from 1859 that appears to have been precancelled. It was once owned by Harry Lussey who had formed an extensive BNAPS gold medal winning precancel collection. The cover was subsequently auctioned by Robert Lee in sale #86 on 28 February 1998 as lot #6 with the following description:

*“Mill-Brook/C.W. NO 16/66 lt. split circle free strike on cover w/5¢ Beaver w/grid bar obliterator, not tied. Some aging, slightly reduced at rt. ‘The Mill-Brook Postmaster cancelled sheets of the 5¢ Beaver in advance, placing them on letters as they were brought to the P.O., the Belleville Postmaster also followed this procedure. At Mill-Brook the small cents are known precancelled.’ [This sentence is likely a quote from Lussey.] The only cover I know of.”*

This same cover reappeared in the Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, “Flagship” Series Auction # 663, 28-30 January, 2015 as lot #2607 with the description:

*“Canada, 1859, Beaver, 5¢ vermilion (Scott 15), precancelled with five vertical bars on cover to South Monaghan, C.W., postmarked mostly complete ‘Mill-Brook, C.W./No 16, 66’ and back stamped partial red South Monaghan receiver; reduced a bit irregularly at right and stamp with nibbed corner, otherwise fine. This is believed to be the only recorded example of this precancel on cover and, as such, one of the most important items in all of Canadian precancel collecting. Lussey.”*

It sold for US\$295 including commission.

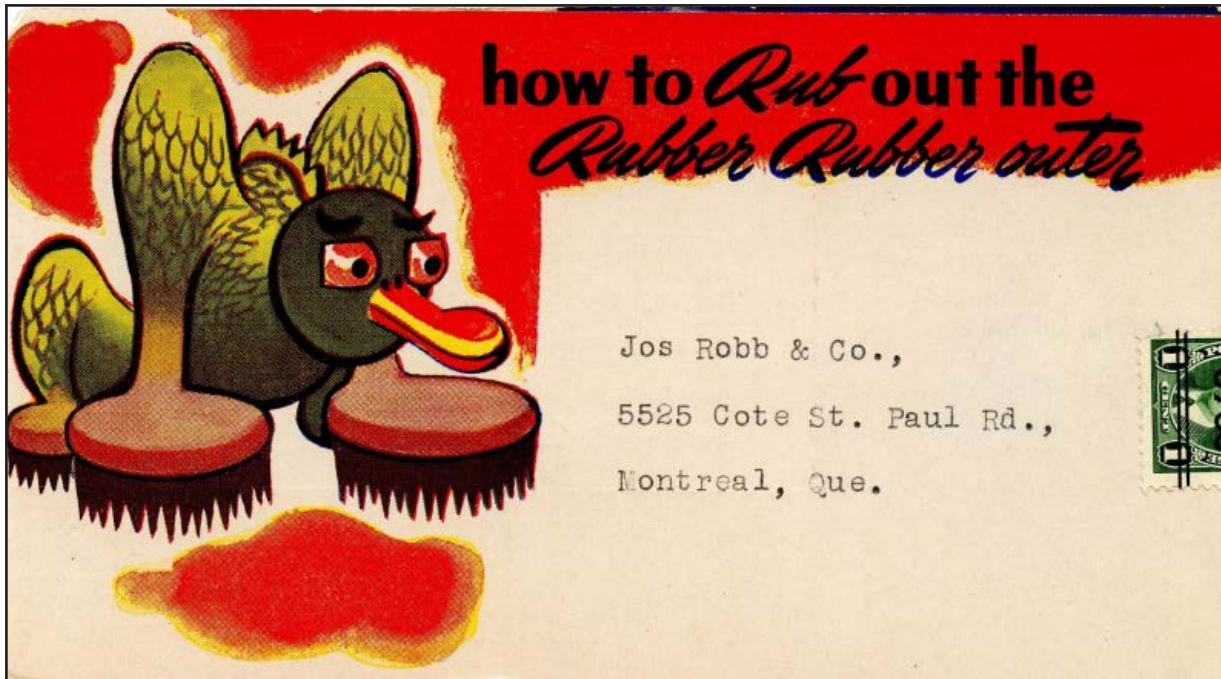
According to the 1865-6 Gazetteer and Business Directory for the United Counties of Northumberland & Durham, the post village of Millbrook with a population of about 1100, is located in the township of Cavan, County of Durham and the post office was established in 1846 with Matthew Knowlson as its first postmaster. This directory lists Richard Howden as the current postmaster for Millbrook and also a grain dealer. From the Library and Archives Canada website Richard Howden is listed as serving as the Millbrook postmaster from 1 January 1861 to 17 July 1872 when he resigned. From Canadian census it appears that at age 30 he took over the post office from his mother-in-law Isabella Knowlson with whom he was boarding and who had succeeded her husband Matthew Knowlson in 1854 after his death.





**SHOW & TELL**

**THREE INTERESTING ITEMS FROM  
THE COLLECTION OF GARY STEELE**



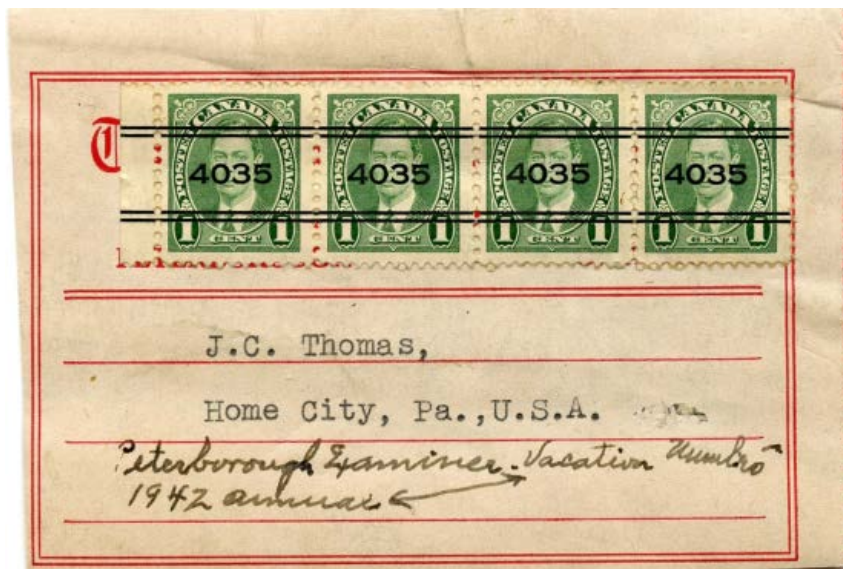
**ITEM 1. BUG ADVERTISEMENT.**

One-cent #231 with Montreal 0700 precancel on an exceptional colour advertising card received June 3, 1940. Used to promote car alignments to save on rubber tire wear,



**ITEM 2. WRAPPER TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

One-cent #231 Winnipeg #5850 precancel on a newspaper or advertising wrapper mailed in September 1937 and received in Czechoslovakia on September 11th, 1937,



**ITEM 3. MULTIPLE FRANKING ON CROSS-BORDER MAIL**

Multiple frankings of the Mufti Issue are very scarce. This item is on a label with a strip of four one-cent stamps with precancel #4035 from Peterborough to Home City, PA, m/s shows "Peterborough Examiner 1942 Annual Vacation Numbre (?)".



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## PRECANCEL PUZZLSS

### **RARE HAIR - LINES THAT IS...**

Lou Fontaine

I purchased a large lot at auction. I found another variety that is not listed, even as a normal hairline. Cat # 2-91-i Montreal.

I made two scans of the stamp in question, one at 300dpi and another at 600dpi. The latter (image at right) shows the hairlines nicely, strongest at lower left. It was marked on the back as a cracked plate. Has anyone discovered any Unitrade #91 as normal or precancel with this variety?



Left-hand section of 91i with inverted Montreal precancel shown at 600 dpi. Hair lines appear in lower left margin.

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### **CALGARY 1-105 WITH PRECANCEL ASKEW**

Terry Sitch

The image below shows a Calgary 1-105 precancel pair showing the “Y” in “CALGARY” 0.5mm lower than the rest of the letters on the left-hand stamp only.

Two questions:

1. What position on the sheet did this occur; and
2. Have you seen this same variety on any other value?

Please let me know at: [twsripper@icloud.com](mailto:twsripper@icloud.com).





## LOOKING TO ADD TO YOUR PRECANCEL COLLECTION?



BNAPS members can find a wide range of items at reasonable prices in the BNAPS Exchange Circuit.

For more information, contact Andy Ellwood at: [andy\\_ellwood@rogers.com](mailto:andy_ellwood@rogers.com)

## The POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF CANADA *offers its members :*



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*For a membership application form please visit our website or contact the Secretary:*

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EMAIL: [secretary@postalhistorycanada.net](mailto:secretary@postalhistorycanada.net)

## DO YOU LIKE THIS ISSUE? DO YOU WANT TO SEE ANOTHER ONE?

If you answered "YES," then send us your questions your articles, and scans of your interesting precancels.

The next issue always depends on you getting involved.

## IF YOU NEVER SEE ANOTHER ONE, YOU'LL KNOW WHO TO BLAME.